

THE

Little Review;

OR, AN

Inquisition of Scandal:

Consisting in *Answers of Questions and Doubts,
Remarks, Observation and Reflection.*

Wednesday, August i. 1705.

WE received a second Letter from the Gentleman, about the deficient half Crown, where he averring the Fact to be true, we farther considered of it, and Solv'd it in these words. *The Gentleman takes a very small half Crown; and to this adds 3 s. 6d. of the like clipt Money, and then he thinks these put together, might just make the Weight of a large good half-Crown, against which they were weigh'd; without which 3 s. 6d. the other would not do it.*

This we sent to Mr. Matthews's, for last Little Review, as he can Testify, but it coming too late to insert, he sent it back to us, and with it a third Letter from the same Person, who solv'd it in these Words: *Three Shillings and Six Pence, clipt Money, put into the Scale with the clipt half Crown, weigh'd but a mild half Crown; so may very properly be said to want 3 s. 6d. of Weight. There have been many half Crowns clipt as small as a Shilling, and at that rate two half Crowns, and half a half Crown, which is 6 s. 3d. could weigh but a New half Crown.*

In this Letter the Gentleman Complains of many Abuses; First, Of our saying the first part of his first Letter was Bombast; which, that all may Judge, is as follows.

Honourable Gentlemen.

I Attempted to imitate (on your recommendation) Mr. Pedant's Eloquent Bombast; and so make my Introduction to such a Beautiful Style; but it is so superiour, and unlike my vulgar way of Writing, that I might sooner hope for more Distinction than Mr. H.—at seems to have, in desiring to be present at the Play-House, (a Place so Famous, or rather Infamous for Vice) than to attain to such an inimitable way of Writing.

But this is all Circumlocution; Now for the content or subject which occasioned this Letter, in which I shall be short; and between Thee and I, in plain Language, without any Flourishes (for tho' you declare your selves such favourers of Bombast, I hope you'll excuse me for once); it is as follows, &c.

swindley.

Secondly, As to our calling the Stated thing a Contradiction.

Thirdly, He adds this, *I have heard that much Learning makes Mad, but never yet heard that Learning, tho' never so little, makes People Fools; and according to this Hypothesis, a great degree of Learning, will make Persons so much the more Foolish.*

To the *First*, We still judge it Bombast; and are sorry we are in the wrong, when we thought that none but Fools use it, and the aim was at the particular thing, not the Person's whole Character.

To the *Second*, When we thought it intended as a Banter, it was answer'd as such; but upon serious Advice of the Truth of it; it was afterwards solv'd as such; but its late coming to the Press, occasion'd this great Storm. But we beg leave to ask the Gentleman, Why he sent it? If not because it seem'd an impossibility; For had it carry'd in it the Face of Plainness, I suppose we had not been presented with it; and when you say that half a Crown wants more weight than it should have, we could no more explain that Assertion, than we could read the Letters round the clipp'd Money when they were cut off; but had he made the distinction of Coins, it had been no *Enigma*.

To the *Third*, We ask whether that Man is not a Fool, who has too little Learning? Where *too little Learning* is meant, not simply that which he hath, but comparatively the what more than he has; and then we ask how the inference can be made: (that by a greater degree of Learning, he will be a greater Fool;) For if by the want of more than he has (or too little) he is a Fool, I do not perceive that a greater degree (or having more) will make him more Foolish; for that little sinks into none, in Comparison to what he ought to have.

A *Fourth* thing came along with the rest, which was, *Why is it hotter in July or August, than in June.*

To this we Answer, That the longer the Sun continues on the Earth, the the hotter Earth is; Now this further distance is so small, that the Earth does not, in *July* or *August*, thereby lose the warmth it had in *June*: But as the heat of an Oven, that has been already much heated, is by a smaller Quantity, than what first rais'd it; increased; so we judge of the Earth: Besides, do we not find that the Water is always hotter in the Evening, than when the Sun is

actually on it? And another Reason we take to be this, which is, that the Constitution of our Bodies (by the Earths moving from the Sun) being Colder in the two last Months, than in the first; it makes that Heat seem greater, than when our Bodies were of a nigher degree of heat to the Sun; for a Man that has a Fever, shall not think the same Water so Cold when he puts his hand in it, as those do, who are more temperate in their Bodies than he. We desire if the Gentleman has better Reasons, to send them to us; and they shall be faithfully inserted, with Thanks for the Informations; it being our design not to Affront any Person, but to please all.

Ingeniosissimus Vtr, Mr. Review,

I Am at a loss for words to express my acknowledgment of the Obligation which the Publick owes you, for the satisfaction which your Paper yields. the most difficult Question receiving your Solution or Ridicule; I therefore doubt not your Ability to Answer this Querie, yea, tho' it were much more difficult than it is.

Querie, What Colour is our Grey Cat of?—
Tho' you are no Conjurers, nor have any familiarity with Spirits; yet I believe it is not unreasonable to suppose you capable of resolving the preceding Interrogation. Having a particular esteem for Men of Sense and Wit, I desire you'd oblige (here's a hair in my Pen) your Brother with a speedy Answer.

Your humble Friend,
Abraham Serfible,
Senior, and Wittiest of
the Witts.

From Will's,
July 26. 1705.

P. S. We are greatly ambitious of your Acquaintance. And in the Name of the Fraternity, I desire you would Honour us with your Presence, at the Place from whence this is Dated, and it will be an inexpressible Favour.

P. P. S. Pray clear your self from having any hand in the Reflection on the Witts: in your Review, Friday, July 29.

Our Reflections were on the No-Wits at Will's, not on some Worthy Gentlemen, who frequent that House, and have shown to the World they are other Men than Esq; Honour, or his Brother Abraham. Well then Sir, having freed our selves from Suspicion of ill Manners

Manners towards the Wits; we answer your Question; That Grey is no Colour at all; the Composition of it not being of any. For all Colours are made by the *Various Reflection*. Now the disposition and outward texture of a Black body, sucks in, and conceals all the Rays of Light in it self, so that here is no Reflection; and the Texture of a White body, reflects the Rays all one way, so that the Reflection is not various, which two things are the Essence of Colours; and neither being in Black and White, (which is the Composition of Grey) your Grey Cat is of no Colour.

Gentlemen,

If you please to Answer these following Queries,

1. Whether there be a Material Fire of Hell?
2. If there be; Then where is the place of it?
3. If there be not a Material Fire of Hell; then pray your Opinion, of what Hell is?

In Answering of which, you will bigly oblige

Your unknown Servant,
And Admirer,

July 24.
1705.

A. B.

Pray Answer it the first opportunity, if you can in Fryday's Little Review at farbest.

We do not think it is fit for any Man to ask such a Question; and 'tis Presumptuous in him, that pretends to determine it: and it being Matter of Faith, we refer the Querist to the Scriptures; and if they say there is such a thing, and such a place, we are to believe, what we cannot contradict; or raise Cavils against the being of a thing, because 'tis above our comprehension; however, suppose the Fire not to be extinguish'd, the never Dying Worm &c. be not Literally, but Metaphorically to be understood and apply'd. to the showings of a Guilty Conscience; we think it a persuasion as urging to a good Life, as the Fears of a real External Fire; for the very reason, that the last persuades Men to Vir-

tue, which is, that it is as hard to bear the Reflections of an Accusing Conscience as flames; ask those poor Wretches, who carry about them, an Hell on Earth, whether they would not willingly exchange their bitter Thoughts for Burnings, to the greatest height you can raise the Notion.

WE do not pretend, or set up to Answer *Enigma's*, but are glad when we can; and when we cannot, we shall Print them, and desire others to do it.

Gentlemen,

You having expounded *Enigma's* in some of your late Little Reviews, Pray let me crave the same Satisfaction.

Enigma.

I Was before (1) *Adam*, and am at this day,
And still shall remain till the World does decay.
In a 1000, and different Shapes I am found
I resemble each (2) Creature that walks on the Ground.

On Land, and on Water I often appear,
But seldom or (3) never am seen in the Air.
To lay hold on my Form, is a folly to try,
For still from all Mortal embraces I fly.
I trip over Corn and o're Meadows of Grass,
But leave no Impression where ever I pass:
O're Sands and o're Snow, so *Camilla* would fly,
Her steps not discern'd (if *Fame* does not lie).
When I'm seen in Youth (4) there's no *Giant* so tall,

Yet e're six (5) hours old not a Dwarf is so small
But as older I grow, (6) in Stature I rise,
Till at length I return (7) to my primitive size.
On Princes I wait, and at Courts I have been,
I have walk'd with the *Pope*, and with *Lewis* been seen.

With *William* I went, when he past the *Boyn's* Flood,
And attend on all Armies, but do 'em no good.
I obey all Men's Motion, and every Man's Will,
With the Vigorous I run, with the Old I stand still.

If not in the day, you may find me by Night, (8)
But to tell you the Truth I'm a Child of the Light.

. Boad

1. Beasts were before Adam, who had a Shadow as well as he.

2. The 4th Line explains the third, Shadow, resembling every body.

3. The Air is a body too thin to receive a Shadow.

4. A Shadow is longer betimes in the Morning; Than,

5. Suppose it at 12 of the Clock,

6. Then towards Evening, it grows longer again. Till,

7. It has the same length with the Setting, as it hath with the Rising Sun.

8. By the Moon, a Shadow is made, as well as by the Sun :

MR. *Ulysses*, sent the Society a Riddle, which is the same as *this*, as we think, if not, be is desir'd to let us know.

MR. G. is hereby acquainted that the *Queries* sent by Mrs. M. G. are not in relation to those of X. X. in *Little Review*. of Friday, July 24. And her Case being so particular, it will do more harm to her in Publishing it, than good to others; Therefore we judge it best to conceal it.

THE Gentleman that sometime since sent the Society a Letter about Baptism; shall have an Answer with all convenient speed.

TWO Letters sent to the Society, sign'd A. M. will have a Private Answer; the Case being improper for Publick View.

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